



Policy Briefing: Threats to Food and Nutrition Programs in the Budget Reconciliation

April 29, 2025

Who We Are

The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) improves the nutrition, health, and well-being of people struggling against poverty-related hunger in the United States through advocacy, partnerships, and by advancing bold and equitable policy solutions. For more information about FRAC, or to [sign up](#) for FRAC's e-newsletter, go to www.frac.org.



What We Do

- Conduct research to document the extent of hunger and identify effective solutions
- Advocate for federal, state and local public policies that protect and strengthen the federal nutrition programs
- Provide coordination, training, technical assistance, and support on hunger-related issues

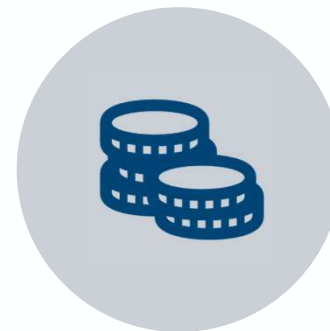
Landscape for the Nutrition Programs



BUDGET
RECONCILIATION



FARM
BILL



ADMINISTRATION
FUNDING CUTS

Budget Reconciliation

- \$230B from House Agriculture Committee
- \$330B from House Education and Workforce Committee
- House Education and Workforce Mark-up Today
- House Agriculture Mark-up Scheduled for May 8

SNAP

Salaam Bhatti
SNAP Director

Impact of Proposed Cuts

- Reduce benefit levels
- Increase administrative and financial burden for states
- Remove people from the program

Proposed Cuts

- Benefit Cuts
- Unfunded Mandate
- Time Limits



“There were times when I didn’t know if I had enough food to feed my child. There were times when I had to consider whether buying necessities like gas and electricity were more beneficial than buying a loaf of bread and butter for dinner that night.

— Aubry

PROTECT SNAP to Reduce Hunger and Strengthen Local Economies in **FLORIDA**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's first line of defense against hunger, helping **3,070,653** people in **FLORIDA** put food on the table. In fiscal year 2024, SNAP brought **\$6,604,797,454** to the state. With **12%** of **FLORIDA** households experiencing food insecurity and high food prices, protecting and strengthening SNAP is more important than ever.

TAKE ACTION: REJECT PROPOSALS THAT CUT OR RESTRICT ACCESS TO SNAP BENEFITS.

Proposed cuts mean fewer federal funds supporting local economies, children losing school meals, and decreasing WIC participation for babies and toddlers ages 0–4. These cuts would increase hunger by taking food away from Americans in need, decrease local revenue, and overwhelm already strained food pantries. **For every meal a pantry provides, SNAP offers nine.**

SNAP'S IMPACT IN FLORIDA



97,675
Veterans
participating in SNAP



46%
SNAP households
with older adults



45%
SNAP households
with children



44%
SNAP households
with a person with a
disability

- ▶ **13%** of households in **FLORIDA** participated in SNAP. SNAP participants reside throughout the state: **one in 5 rural** and **one in 6 small-town households** and **one in 8 households in metro areas in FLORIDA**.
- ▶ In FY 2024, SNAP participants in **FLORIDA** received an **average of \$184.96 per month** in SNAP benefits. This averages **\$6.08 per person per day**.
- ▶ SNAP helped over **1,135,876 children in FLORIDA** in 2022. It also provided these children with eligibility for school meals. Cuts to SNAP would mean that children in families with low incomes would lose access to school meals.

KEY ECONOMIC FACTS

- ▶ **SNAP supports working families.** Between 2019–2023, an average of **81%** of SNAP households in **FLORIDA** included someone who was working.
- ▶ **SNAP stimulates the economy and creates jobs.** Each SNAP dollar has up to a \$1.80 impact during economic downturns, supporting the supply chain from farmer to store.
- ▶ **SNAP supports local businesses,** including **15,148 retailers in FLORIDA**, which redeemed a total of **\$7,157,516,791** in 2023. Retailers include grocery stores and farmers' markets, which contribute to local taxes that fund services like schools and health care.

SOURCES FOR THIS FACT SHEET CAN BE FOUND IN THE [TECHNICAL NOTES](#).

SNAP IS A PROVEN, COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAM

that reduces food insecurity, supports the health of children, older adults, and veterans. SNAP reduces health care costs, improves educational outcomes, and supports local economies. Support **FLORIDA** families by opposing any cuts to SNAP.

STRENGTHEN SNAP, STRENGTHEN FLORIDA

SNAP SUPPORTS HEALTH

Reduces Hunger

Improves Dietary
Intake

Lowers Health Care
Spending on Average of
\$1,400

Lowers Rates of
Anemia and Obesity in
Children

Fewer Hospitalizations

Supports Mental
Health

Multi City Study

- Families with young children participating in SNAP, less likely to report
 - Poor child health
 - Developmental risk
 - Underweight children
 - Household food insecurity
 - Trade-offs between health and household expenses

Farm Bill 2025

- Contingent on reconciliation
- Priorities we are working on
 - Closing the Meal Gap Act
 - Restore Act
 - Hot Foods Act
 - Cybersecurity Act
 - Enhance Access To SNAP Act


School Meals

Crystal FitzSimons
Interim President

We have made so much progress!



- Children get their healthiest meals at school
- Limits on sugar and reductions in sodium going into effect in the years ahead
- **School breakfast and lunch support food security, health and learning**



60% of schools offered free meals
to all their students
during the 2023-2024 school year

Community Eligibility Provision
Healthy School Meals for All state policy

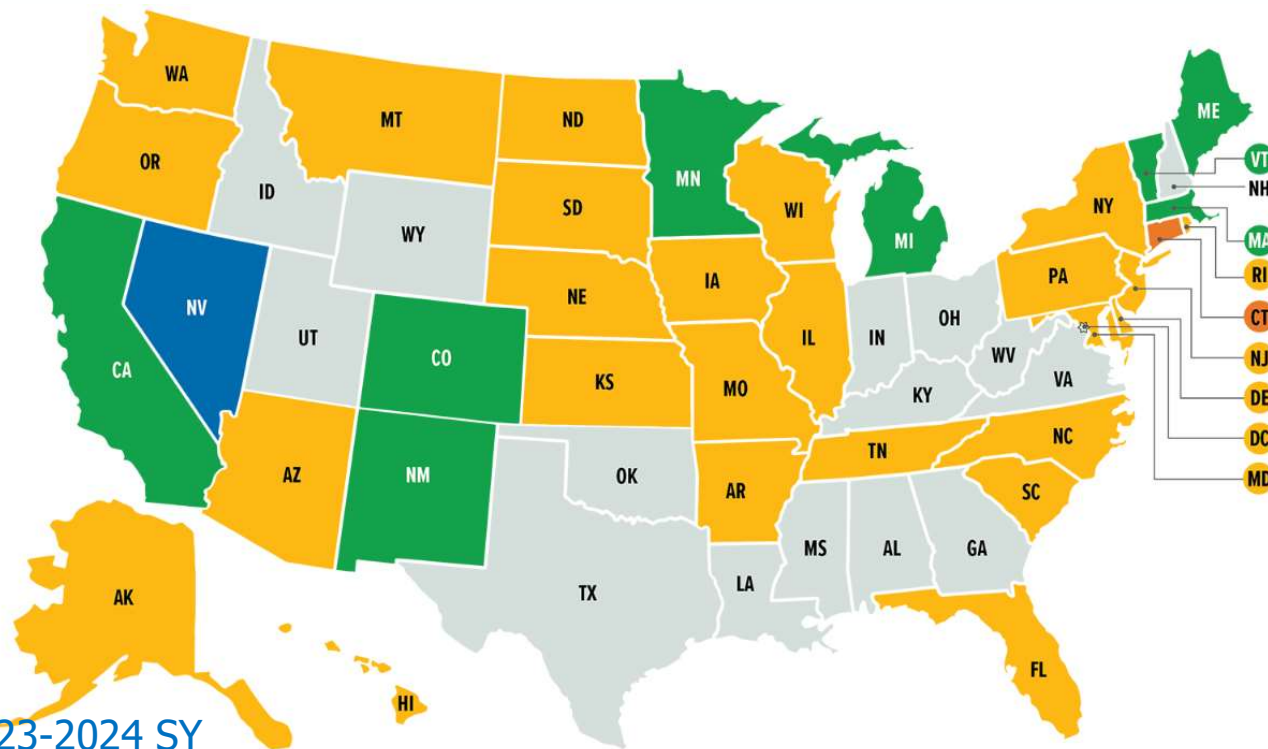
Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)



25% Identified Student Percentage (ISP)

- Currently, schools or groups of schools must have at least **25%** of their students automatically certified for free meals
- Their household participates in SNAP, TANF, FDPIR and in most states, Medicaid
- They are in an eligible category ex: foster child or homeless

8 Healthy School Meals for All States



Policy passed

Policy 2022-23 and 2023-2024 SY

Policy 2022-2023 SY

HSMFA Bills Introduced

Impact of Proposed SNAP and Medicaid Cuts

Fewer children automatically eligible for school meals:

- Children falling through the cracks
- Increased administrative burdens on schools
- Fewer CEP schools



Additional Threats



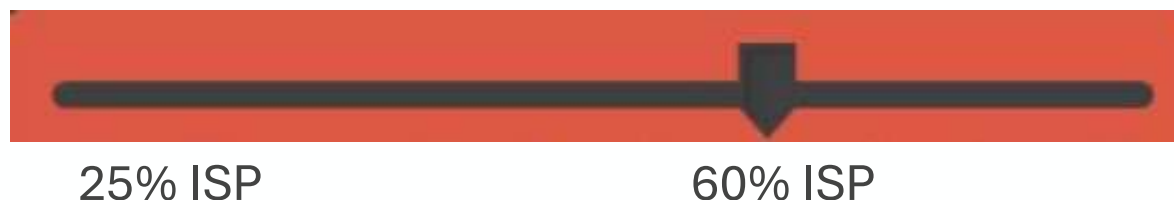
- \$12 billion in proposed cuts to school meals
- Not included in House Education and Workforce Mark-Up

Chair Arrington proposals: <https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Reconciliation-Options-2025.pdf> Pages 33 + 34

CEP Eligibility



- Moving CEP eligibility threshold from 25 percent to 60 percent “Identified Student Percentage”



- More than **24,000 schools** across the country, serving more than **12 million children**, would no longer be eligible to participate in CEP

Income Verification for All School Meal Applications



- All families who apply and are approved for free and reduced-price meals schools would need to document their household income
- Many eligible children would lose access to free and reduced-price school meals
- The administrative burden on schools would dramatically increase
- Currently most schools are required to verify the income of **3 percent** of applicants

Administrative Cuts to the Programs

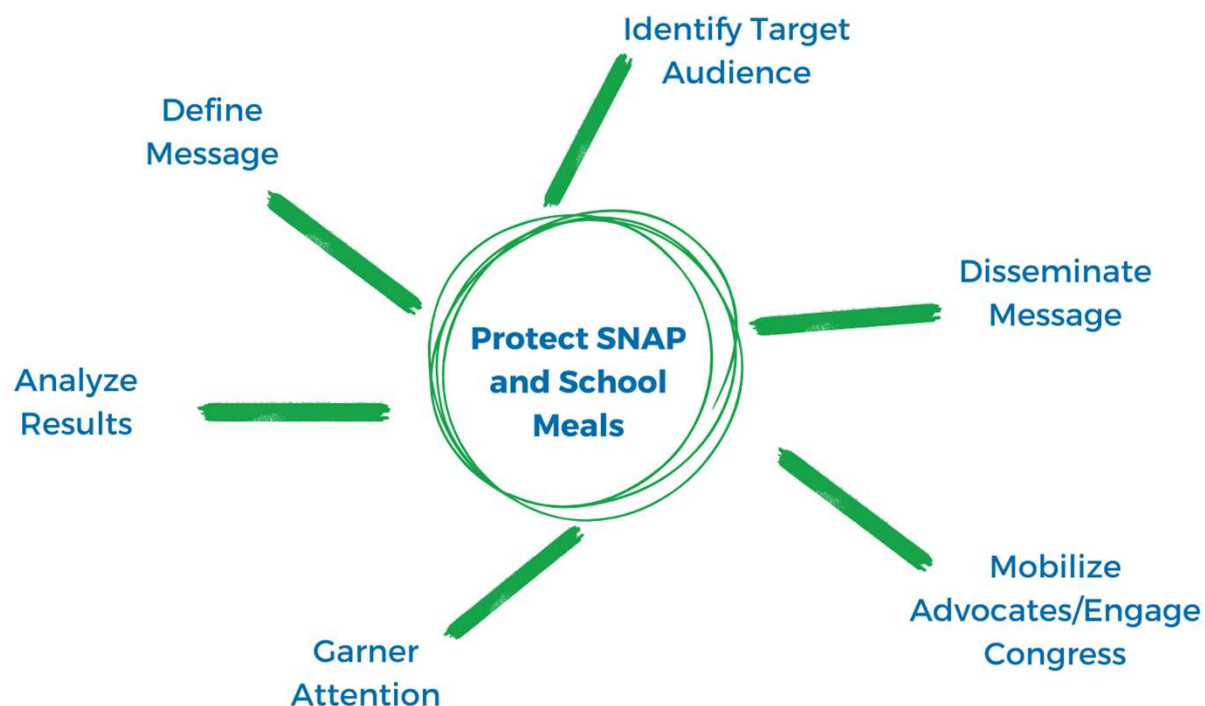
- \$1B in local food purchasing for schools, childcare, and food banks
- TEFAP
- \$10M in Farm to School Grants
- Research, technical assistance, and programmatic grants



Communications Strategy

Colleen Barton
Communications Director

Campaign Elements to Oppose Cuts



Target Audience



- Members of Key Committees: House and Senate AG and House Education and Workforce
- Congressional Leadership
- Moderate Republicans
- Constituents in Key Districts and States
- Influencers to those Senators and Members: Veterans, Educators, Health Care Providers, Farmers



Let's End Hunger in America to Achieve our Shared Vision

Thriving Children

Strong economy

Healthy workforce

Support for older adults and veterans

Safe and resilient communities

Stable, strong, and secure country

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SNAP Message: The Impact of Cuts



TAKES FOOD AWAY



HARMS FAMILIES,
FARMERS, AND FOOD
RETAILERS



PREVENTS CHILDREN
FROM ACCESSING
FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Disseminate Message

- Newsletters
- Action Alerts
- Earned Media
- Press Briefing
- Digital Media
- Webinars
- Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns

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PROTECT SNAP to Reduce Hunger and Strengthen Local Economies in ALABAMA

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's first line of defense against hunger, helping **756,768** people in **ALABAMA** put food on the table. In 2023, SNAP brought a monthly average of **\$119,080,930** to the state. With **12%** of **ALABAMA** households experiencing food insecurity and high food prices, protecting and strengthening SNAP is more important than ever.

TAKE ACTION: REJECT PROPOSALS THAT CUT OR RESTRICT ACCESS TO SNAP BENEFITS.

Proposed cuts mean fewer federal funds supporting local economies, children losing school meals, and decreasing WIC participation for babies and toddlers ages 0–4. These cuts would increase hunger by taking food away from Americans in need, decrease local revenue, and overwhelm already strained food pantries. For every meal a pantry provides, SNAP offers nine.

SNAP'S IMPACT IN ALABAMA

- 23,128** Veterans participating in SNAP
- 34%** SNAP households with older adults
- 49%** SNAP households with children
- 47%** SNAP households with a person with a disability

SNAP participants reside throughout the state: **one in 6 rural and one in 6 small-town households and one in 3 households in metro areas in ALABAMA.**

14% of households in **ALABAMA** participate in SNAP and received an **average of \$319.75 per month** in SNAP benefits in fiscal year 2022. This averages **\$5.19 per person per day**.

SNAP helped over **325,423 children in ALABAMA** in 2022. It also provided these children with eligibility for school meals. Cuts to SNAP would mean that children in families with low incomes would lose access to school meals.

KEY ECONOMIC FACTS

- SNAP supports working families. In 2023, **75%** of SNAP households in **ALABAMA** included someone who is working.
- SNAP stimulates the economy and creates jobs. Each SNAP dollar has up to a **\$1.80** impact during economic downturns, supporting the supply chain from farmer to store.
- SNAP supports local businesses, including **4,936 retailers in ALABAMA**, which redeemed a total of **\$2,087,009,545** in 2022. Retailers include grocery stores and farmers' markets, which contribute to local taxes that fund services like schools and health care.

SOURCES FOR THIS FACT SHEET CAN BE FOUND IN THE TECHNICAL NOTES.

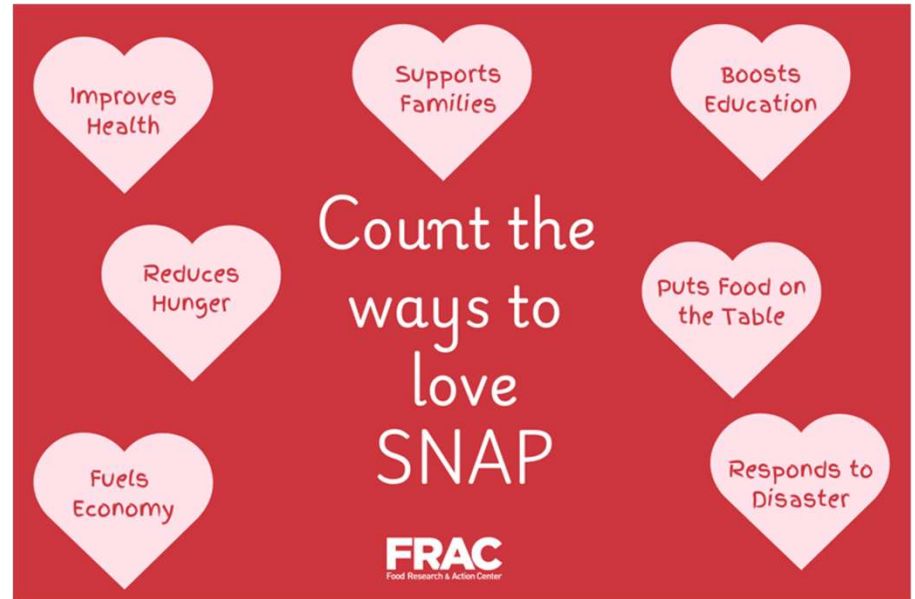
SNAP IS A PROVEN, COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAM that reduces food insecurity, supports the health of children, older adults, and veterans. SNAP reduces health care costs, improves educational outcomes, and supports local economies. Support ALABAMA families by opposing any cuts to SNAP.

STRENGTHEN SNAP, STRENGTHEN ALABAMA

FOOD RESEARCH & ACTION CENTER | WWW.FRAC.ORG

FEBRUARY 2025

Show Your Love for SNAP



Protecting School Meals

#SaveSchoolMeals

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Menu

**NATIONAL
SCHOOL
BREAKFAST
WEEK**

March 3-7

Monday

Oppose Cuts to School Meals

Tuesday

Promote a School Breakfast Champion

Wednesday

Raise Your Hand for Healthy School Meals For All

Thursday

Register for Community Eligibility Provision Webinar

Friday

Register for the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

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SNAP Matters

“My husband has stage 4 cancer and can't work. Getting SNAP benefits mean our family of 6 can eat while he undergoes treatment.”

Tiffany from Florida

#SNAPshots



“I can eat every day and have money left for the rent, utilities and toiletries.”

R from New York

#SNAPshots



#SNAPCHALLENGE25



Press Briefing: Voices of Influencers

"Thank you to **FRAC** for organizing the SNAP challenge in March. People don't realize how modest SNAP benefits already are, including a lot of my colleagues here on the Hill. - Rep. Shontel Brown (D-OH)

"We talk about SNAP as being like a vaccine in that as SNAP benefits go up, the vaccine has boosting efforts to child health and so we know that conversely when SNAP benefits are cut back this puts children at risk of frequent hospitalizations." - Eddie Ochoa, M.D., Arkansas Children's Hospital

"Studies show that 1 billion in SNAP benefits creates roughly **13,560 jobs**. Because SNAP benefits are often spent quickly that economic activity remains in local communities helping businesses keep the lights on and creating jobs where they are most needed. Cuts to SNAP wouldn't just mean fewer meals for families with low incomes but also job losses in grocery stores and less revenue for farmers." Laquita Honeysucker, UFCW

"Many seniors live on fixed incomes and struggle to afford rising food costs. Cuts to SNAP would force impossible choices for them between food medicine and utilities. " - Mike Fonkert, Kansas Appleseed

CIVIL EATS

AP

The New York Times

SN SUPERMARKET NEWS

The74

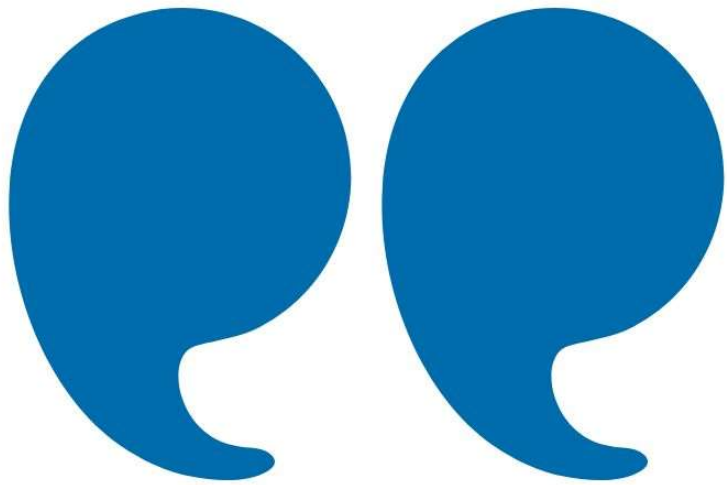
CBS NEWS

TIME

FOX BUSINESS



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I know there are many tough choices that are our Representatives have to make but making sure that everyone is fed isn't a tough one."

-Sierra, former SNAP recipient

Call to Action



INVEST



WEIGH IN



PARTNERSHIPS

DELIBERATIVE AND CONFIDENTIAL



Connect With Us!

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